a miscellany of Fortean curiosites

The News

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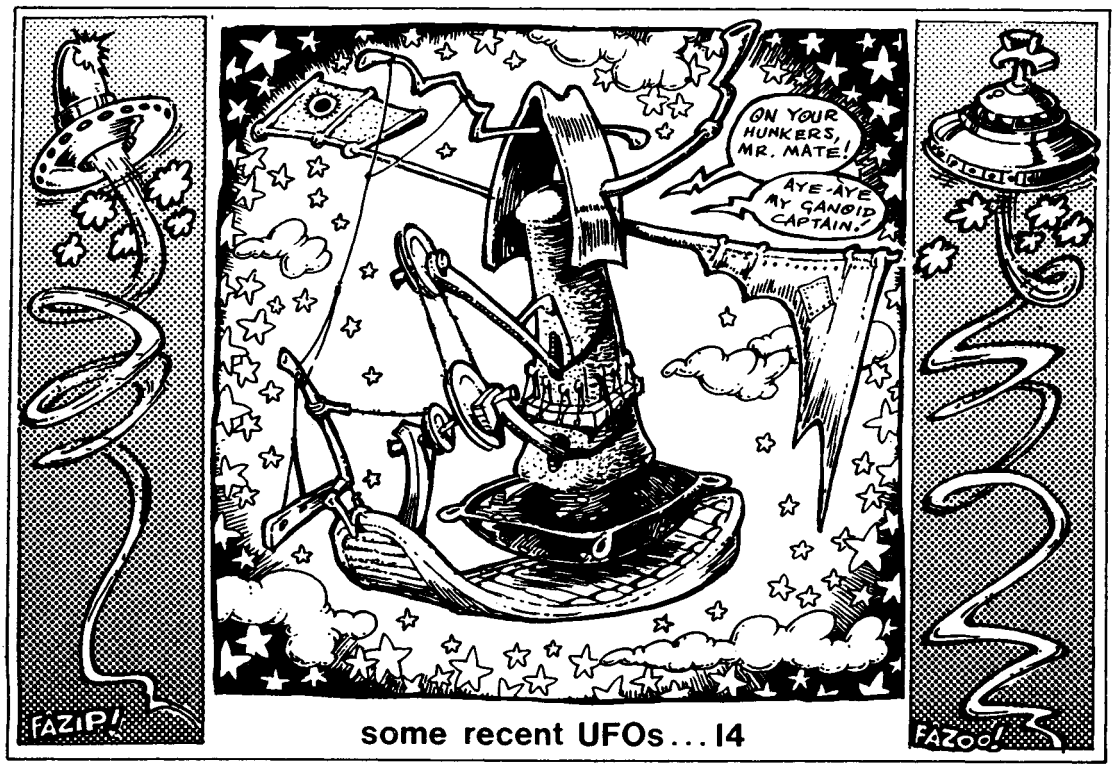

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THE NEWS

bi-monthly notes on Fortean phenomena

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june 1975

THE NEWS is a non-profitmaking bi-monthly miscellany of Fortean news, notes and references; and is affiliated to the International Fortean Organisation (INFO) in continuing the work of Charles Fort (1874 – 1932). THE NEWS is edited by **Robert JM Rickard : Post Office Stores, Aldermaston, Berkshire, England.**

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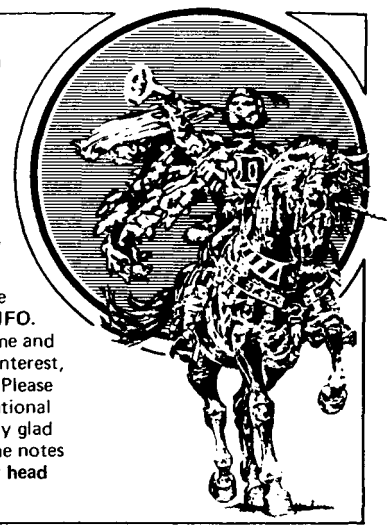


INFO's 3rd ANNUAL CONVENTION -- FORTFEST 75.

This year held in Chicago, at the Sheraton Oakbrook Motor Hotel, 1401 West 22nd St, near O'Hare International airport, over the period 8 to 10 August. The GOH is John Keel, who'll talk also on the subject of his latest book THE MOTH-MAN PROPHECIES. Other speakers will include: Dr Roy Mackal (Univ. Chicago) on the searches for the denizens of Loch Ness et al; John Carlson (Univ. Maryland) on Archeoastronomy; Gene Philips with a slideshow on ET visitants; Stuart Greenwood (Univ. Maryland) on Ancient Astronaut theme; Jerome Clark on Forteana & Magonia; Joe Troiani on "Voices on the Tapes", evidence of the Raudive effect; Christof Friedrich (author of UFOs: NAZI SECRET WEAPON?); Gordon Melton on Contactees and the origins of their revelations; Loren Coleman on American monsters and ABSMs; and quite possibly a whole lot more. There will also be a chance to experience Richard Crowe's special nighttime 'Ghost Tour of Chicago'.

Registration: INFO members....$12.00.
Non members.....$ 7.00./day.
Students.....$ 5.00./day. + ID.

For more information on the whole bag of worms,
Phone: Richard Crowe (312) 767-4481.
Paul Willis (703) 920-7120.
Or write to INFO, PO Box 367, Arlington, Va22210, USA. Your Editor, who has had a dramatic conversion on the road to cynicism and who now believes in Good Faries, will be travelling to the States to attend the FEST, and looks forward to it very much indeed. See you there!

KASPAR HAUSER.

We learned recently that the West German official entry at the Cannes film festival was an interpretation of a subject that interests us very much indeed. Called "EACH FOR HIMSELF & GOD AGAINST ALL : The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser.", and directed by Werner Herzog. So you can imagine our pleasure on learning that it was awarded the 'Special Jury' Prize. No doubt, as with previous films that distributors like to lable 'Art' films this will never appear on the commercial circuits -- but keep an eye on your local cinema clubs, or if you have an 'Arts Lab' or similar in your area or indeed any society of your own, pressure them into hiring it. The only thing we know about it is that it is centred around the political theories of Hauser's origin, and that he was kept and reared in the dungeons of Nuremburg Castle before his puzzling appearance in an equally puzzled world.

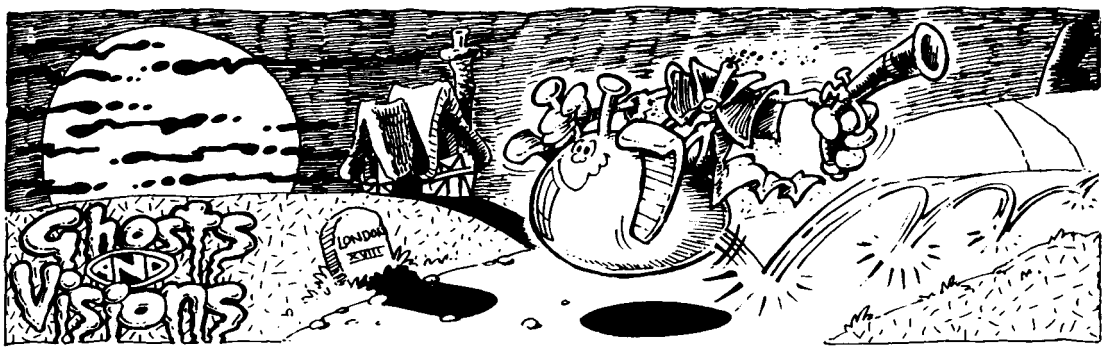
A COMPLETELY REVISED EDITION OF FORT'S WORKS.

Your Editor, and X in Canada, are co-editing a complete reappraisal of the four books of Charles Fort. A large working index and a complete bibliography of CF's sources have already been completed - work is now in progress in checking out every single reference in the quest for accuracy. Dover (in USA) have recently re-published the 1941 Fortean Society edition, but sadly they have ignored or missed the opportunity to correct all the errors in the text, and to improve the arbitrary and virtually useless index therein.

Our new revision will not only update the text, but correct many of the minor errors made by Fort; and include as many of the illustrations to which Fort referred as is possible to locate and feasible to print. We may even include some additional material, eg extracts of sources to which CF refers, that are not gone into in the text, etc etc. It is our aim to be as complete and as accurate as possible, making this the definitive sourcebook on Fort - so, we want to throw out an open invitation to any of you who have followed up any of CF's sources and found something that needs correcting. Please write to the Editor at the above address, or X at Box 1598 Kingston, Ontario K7L 5C8, Canada. Thanx to all!

CIRCULATION AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Our only way to a healthy existence is too increase our circulation. There is nothing to compare with a personal recommendation to anyone you think might be interested in our work. Other than that, if you know of any local head- or book-shop interested in taking regular supplies of THE NEWS, then put us in touch. We can give the normal trade discounts.



FACTORY GHOSTS.

Beeston, Notts. -- the ghost of a man in a cloth cap and boiler suit is scaring the life out of the girls on the evening shift at the local Plessey Telecommunications factory. They say the phantom worker walks by them and vanishes into thin air. Birmingham Evening Mail, 9 March 1971.

Luton, Beds. -- canteen staff at the Skefco ball bearing factory have asked the management to black the 'White Lady' that haunts their kitchen. Dora Rouget said: "I was standing with my back to the bakery. I sensed something behind me. When I turned round I expected to see one of the girls, but there was this white object. I didn't think about it again until one of the women saw the same thing a few weeks later." Tina Tyrell said: "I was terrified when I saw the ghost. I went white myself and started shaking. I was washing my hands when this figure appeared and walked into the cloakroom. I went across and looked in but there was nothing there." Other workers claim to have seen the ghost and have asked permission to call in a medium. They believe it is the spirit of a former workmate who died nine years ago. London Evening News, 23 Nov 1972.

Soham, Cambs. -- the managing director of Press Moulding Ltd sat in on the night shift after workers complained of frightening appearances of shadowy shapes. Four of the men say they have heard chairs being moved and mysterious voices talking to them, but when they turn round no one is there. They said this had been going on for at least four months. Eastern Daily Press ((precise date unknown)) Dec 1973. Cr: RA Hill.

Dunston, Northumberland — the Raine Engineering Co Ltd of Dunston, near Gateshead, have a haunted toilet, and no one feels the cold flushes more than the early morning cleaner, Elizabeth Liddle, and several grown men are said to be afraid to go to the toilet alone. Mrs Liddle said: "I heard an awful scream like a boy falling to his death. It was so eerie I couldn't sleep for nights." She has also heard toilets flushing by themselves, and the locked doors in reception banging shut. Other workers swear they have heard the name 'Maria' shouted, and thumps and whistling sounds when no one was around. Unlike the previous story though, the management is definitely not amused. The MD, James Morgan, said: "No one has been killed in the factory. One man was injured while the factory was being constructed, but he eventually died in hospital. This is awful - the whole thing is ridiculous. If these people are spiritualists they should do it in their own time, not in the work's time. We have enough problems as it is. Stories like this are in very bad taste." The (Newcastle) Journal, 1 Nov 1974. Credit Paul Screeton.

Ilkeston, Derbys. as gloom mounts and crises threaten from all quarters; and as car-stickers with the slogan "Will the last person to leave the country please switch out the lights." begin to proliferate - have no fear. Santa is not dead. But is he the ghost of a man in rolled up shirt sleeves that has been seen working away furiously in a toyshop in Ilkeston? The Sun, 20 July 74.

SOME FOREIGN GHOSTS.

Caracas, Venezuela. — a ghost of a 'Dancing Cowboy' is making life a misery for the night-watchmen at the Prefect's Office, Eastern Caracas - driving them caracas, you might say, then again you might not. The ghost appears dressed in a pure white 'liqui liqui' ((a typical Venezuelan suit - it says here)) with trousers rolled up peasant-style, roaming through the corridors and grounds of the office. Chief Inspector Jose Ramirey Noriega said: "One night I saw the man jump from the roof into the patio. A few seconds later he was dancing and laughing. Then he headed for a tree in the garden and...puff, he was gone." Noriega, described as a serious-minded detective, has taken much leg-pulling about this. Earlier in October, two plainclothes cops swear they saw a similar figure also performing dances in the Old Colonial building. Noriega's colleague, Detective Roberto Rodriguez, added: "I was standing in the patio the other night when I saw that crazy dancing cowboy wearing the same 'liqui liqui'. He stopped. Suddenly he jumped over and hit me in the chest. Before I could slap back, he ran to the tree and just faded away." Shades of Spring Heel Jack! A local elderly lady remembered an incident many years before about a group of rowdy cowboys who lived near the area. One liked to dance with his trousers rolled up. "But one night they fought with knives and the 'Dancing Cowboy' was one of two men who died," seh said. Hmmmm, why wait all these years, and what happened to the other man/ghost? The last words came from the Prefect, showing that officialdom is much the same the world over: "My men on the night shift seem to have taken some poor quality rum. Otherwise, what they say about the phantom does not make sense." Manchester Evening News, 11 November 1969. Credit: Peter Rogerson.

Empangeni, South Africa. — A series of 'ghostly' incidents has convinced Mrs Suzette Havenga that the house she moved into in October is haunted by a woman who was murdered there only a few months before. Mrs Elsje Mathee was stabbed to death and her youngest son fatally wounded, died in hospital later. Mrs Havenga said: "I was cleaning the house a few days before we were to move in when our servant told me that a woman had been murdered in the lounge and her baby son stabbed. I immediately phoned my husband and told him I wanted another house. He said I was being childish." The first incident happened three weeks (prior to the news reports) while she was sitting in the lounge with her son; her husband in the backyard. She heard light footsteps pass her, and seeing no one, screamed. When her husband came running, he said he felt a coldness there. Then followed door bangings, more footsteps, and mysterious drops of water leading from the fridge up into the passage, in the weeks that followed. Their servant, Emily Mtetwa, said she saw the figure of a white woman enter a room where Mrs Havenga's son was sleeping, and lean over him. Since an exorcism was too expensive at R75 a throw, they were arranging for prayers to be said at a local church, in the hope that the perturbed spirit be "laid to rest." From the South Africa Daily Mail, 7 Nov 74; & South Africa Sunday Times, 10 Nov 74. Credit: CJ Holtzhauser.

ROAD GHOSTS.

Chetwynd, Shropshire. — Within minutes of each other, two drivers made seperate midnight calls to local police about a ghost on the part of the A41 near Chetwynd, Newport, Shrops. They said they had seen a ghost dressed in a white sheet walking along the pavement outside the parish church at Chetwynd, cross the road, walk along a path, then turning into the churchyard through an archway, vanishing as mysteriously as it appeared. One of the drivers said: "I've never had such a scare. Anyone with a nervous temprament could have had a nasty accident." His wife recalled that a Madam Piggott used to haunt that churchyard after she died in childbirth. It's funny how there always seems to be a convenient local legend to link to the present. It is rare that you get such continuity established to any satisfaction, and it usually seems that these stories are sortedout, deliberately or otherwise, because that's the way tradition has it. Daily Mail, 11 June 1969. Cr: Peter Rogerson.

Sassari, Sicily. — another version of a classic situation: Luigi Torres, driving home one night on his motobike, stops to give a lift to a girl. She is cold, so he gives her his coat, and on dropping her, says he'll call on her the next day. He does so, asking for the return of his coat. The woman who answers the door says her daughter died three years previously. Luigi staggers off, stunned. He drives to the cemetery, where he locates the grave by the photo of the girl that rested on it - the face of the girl he met the previous night. Now, Luigi is said to be slowly recovering from severe shock after seeing his coat draped over the grave. Sunday People, 11 March 73. Credit: Nigel Watson.

A Taxi, Westmorland. — Cabbie Derek Halliwell was driving along the Lonsdale road between Kendal and Kirkby in his empty taxi, when he glanced in the mirror and saw a woman on the back seat. He stopped and looked round, but there was no one there. He hadn't driven another mile before he saw the woman again in his mirror. It's easy for us in our armchairs to be superior - but we've all done silly, inexplicable, even pointless things when we're in a spot. Derek wiped his mirror. My mother speaks several decibels louder when she talks to anyone with some kind of infirmity, like a broken arm. Derek wiped his mirror - but the image of the woman in the back seat was still there. "I went cold all over for 10 minutes. I'm convinced there was someone sitting there." Then she vanished again. "I do not believe in ghosts and I think there must be some mechanical explanation. I admit my dogs have refused to travel in the car and some passengers have felt cold and uneasy they told me afterwards." The expected groping in memory and history...a woman was killed in the taxi when it hit a milk-tanker in the Lonsdale road; or that's

the way they remember it now. Janet Bord's little book GHOSTS has an amazing picture taken by a woman of her husband sitting in a car - and in the backseat can plainly be seen an elderly lady who, the woman claims, is her mother who had died only a week before the shot was taken. We don't know which is the more shocking, haunted cars, or a phantom mother-in-law backseat driver. Sunday People, 14 July 74. Credit: Nigel Watson.

Maidstone, Kent. -- and another ghostly hitch-hiker. Richard Stodholme, lead guitarist with the group 'Chicory Tip' was driving back to London after a night's work and stopped to pick the girl up near the top of Blueberry Hill, 4 miles north of Maidstone. "She asked if I would give her a lift to West Kingsdown. It was on my way, so I agreed." He took the girl's case and put it in the car. "During the journey she said very little, but asked if I would call at her parent's house at Swanley, further along the route to London. She gave me their address, and I dropped her off." The rest is as expected. The girl's father answers the door, saying their daughter was killed in an accident two years earlier, at the spot Richard picked her up. All he could think was that he had been the victim of a cruel hoax. "It wasn't until some months later that I read in a Kent newspaper of other strange happenings at the spot that I began to believe I had driven a ghost in my car. I touched the girl. I took her bag from her and helped her into the car - there was nothing unusual about it. No peculiar sensations of coldness," he exclaimed. We learn that the mystery hiker has been picked up a number of times at the same spot, and several drivers have called at the address in Swanley with similar stories. "Recently" a driver believed he hit a girl at the top of the Hill, covered her body with a blanket and went for help. When he returned with police, the blanket was on the road with no body to be seen anywhere. Reveille, 9 May 75. Credit: Nigel Watson.

Poundstock, Cornwall. -- not exactly a road ghost, but Richard Stodholme's bafflement at the solidity of his ghostly hiker at the time, prompted us to dig this one out of the files, since we don't think it's had much of an airing. Ivor Potter attended a funeral service at Poundstock parish Church on 2 March 71, when "for about 4 minutes, I saw a priest I assumed was going to take part in the service, standing beside the vicar in the porch. We even wished each other 'Good afternoon'. It was only later I discovered he did not exist." The vicar told him that a priest was murdered at the high altar in 1357. Said Ivor: "I always thought they were supposed to be misty, gossamer creatures. But the ghost was absolutely solid. He answered me back and I walked all round him." Daily Express, 3 March 71.

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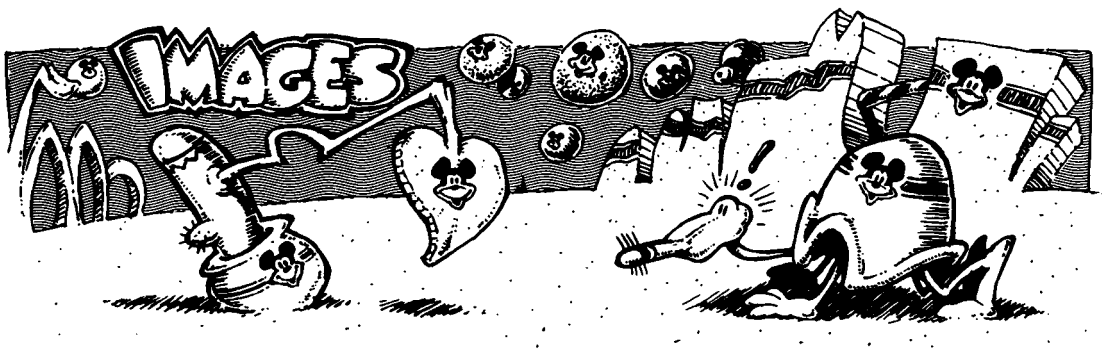


One of the great mysteries of Man, if I may venture a humble opinion, is his facility for recognizing pattern and meaning in the incessant welter of signals arriving at the brain. Just how this is done, and the relationship of percepts and concepts, is perhaps the major bone of contention between the opinions of the various schools of learning and child psychology. This problem is particularly relevant to many of our studies, in that it is central to the issue about what constitutes 'Reality'. Our society has evolved a distinctive way of looking at the universe, which achieves its definitive expression in the edifice we call Science. Indeed such is our conditioning that we are often genuinely shocked or surprised to find any evidence or experience that suggests there are other 'Realities' or ways of looking at the world around us; that Science is not the only world-view, nor a particularly complete one. Our records purport to be accounts of things which conflict (at times) with the general scientific consensus of 'reality', most of them seeming quite real to the percipients at the time. We have no room here to go into the complex arguments, but there is a growing feeling among the more adventurous writers on Fortean mysteries, that 'Reality' is (or can be) conditioned by individual will, and that many of our phenomena (eg Ghosts & UFOs) are subjective manifestations, not of the 'real' world. But this assertion fails to take into account the well-authenticated material evidence at the scenes of the manifestation.

At the other end of the spectrum stands modern Science, leaning its not inconsiderable influence and experience into the scales on the

side of the objective nature of phenomena. The subjectivity or objectivity of phenomena is of course an ancient philosophical chestnut, against which better heads than ours have cracked with little gain. In our favouring of the principle of the continuity of all things, we accept that we have continuity of Mind and the objective 'external' universe - but who, even in these days, can tell us what mind is, and where the one ends and the other begins. Experience with 'life' processes in other areas suggest a two-way relationship of mutual adaption between Mind and Universe - what JC Pearce calls 'mirroring' (see THE CRACK IN THE COSMIC EGG.)

The standard disclaimers that rain down upon those who have experienced a 'different' form of reality from the accepted norm, whether objective (eg a rain of blood & flesh) or subjective (eg precognition) of "You must have been seeing things!", "It's all in the mind!", or "Have another drink and it'll go away!" can no longer be justified, even if they ever were, least of all by anyone calling himself a scientist. There is no getting around the fact that ultimately all information is perceived subjectively. To admit that information between, say, eye and brain can be interfered with, deliberately or otherwise, by forces external to that individual, is to rock the whole scientific boat, beacuse it brings into doubt whether we can ever know that anything is as we perceive it - whether we can be sure of anything at all. Small wonder the whole subject is rarely raised, and even less investigated.

Most of you will have heard of the curious effects that Ted Serios is able to do with film sealed into cameras - somehow imprinting a mental image onto that film in a paranormal way ((see Lyall Watson's SUPERNATURE for a general rundown; and Jule Eisenbud's THE WORLD OF TED SERIOS for the original study)). The stories that follow are of images that have turned up unexpectedly... perhaps they are the product, in some subliminal fashion, of their discoverers, like the Serios effect - perhaps not? Above all they show how fundamental the objective/subjective relationship is to many areas of our Fortean phenomena - and any theory which does not take this into account can be said to be failing to be 'realistic'.

THEIR FACE IS THEIR FORTUNE.

On Sunday 6 Feb 1972, the News of the World printed this photo of a face, or faces, alleged to have appeared on a stone floor of a cottage in the village of Belmez de la Moraleda, South Spain. ((We have only this small indistinct copy, but it should give you some idea.)) In the reddish-brown stains are said to be the faces of a bearded man, a woman and a child. The same paper the following week (13 Feb) published reader's letters saying what they saw in it:-

The ghost face

"If you turn it upside-down the face of a curly-headed child is seen."; "As each face uses the same mouth, both are evidently trying to be heard."; "I shaded parts in lightly and quite a number of faces appear."; "To the right there is a teddybear. Higher up a man and woman are joined together - the man seems to be wearing a crown."; and.."the cat sitting on the woman's shoulder."; "I see the face of a weasle or a stoat."; "There are six faces in the picture."; and lastly someone who found a significant difference in the distance between the pupil of his wife's eye and the bridge of her nose and the same distance indicated by the photo (?).

This is the sort of story that usually gets scientists grimacing in distaste - and yet a similar process has been a part of the orthodox witchcraft of psychology ever since Hermann Rorschach spilt his lunch over his desk-blotter. In the history of art too this is a time-honoured method for prompting inspiration — perhaps made most famous by Max Ernst, who as a trainee psychiatrist in an asylum was fascinated by spit-stains on a wall, and later refined the technique into rubbings of wood-grain and other textures. It seems to us that there are two issues involved - how the pattern or image originated; and then, its meaningful interpretation by viewers - and both of these get thoroughly mixed into a non-illuminating sensation.

On 27 Feb, the NOW carried a further item. 'Experts' who had been probing the mystery of the face on the floor for about a month, left tape-recorders running one night and picked up strange voices...'macabre sounds of heavy breathing', whimperings of small children and a woman's scream. The voices were said to be in a heated argument, and the following melodrama is related: a woman shouting "Drunkard! I don't want drunkards in here!" and a man's reply "Go in, woman. Go in...I don't want...My God!" It's not said what language the voices are in.

There is a parallel in sound to the imprinting of visual images onto film -- the Raudive effect, as it now seems to be identified, largely centres on the mysterious appearance of 'voices' on magnetic tape in conditions that would preclude normal recording methods. Is it possible for people to imprint verbal and visual messages on matter by some paranormal process? And is that happening here?

These questions are not answered by anything further in this present story. The Sun for 3 April 75 said it has been exposed as a giant hoax put on by the 2,103 villagers and their council. "Father Molina, the parish priest, the Mayor, the police chief, the parish clerk and the local magistrate were all in on the plot to bring prosperity to the village. They used trick photography to superimpose 13 mystery faces on a floor and faked taperecordings." Entry to the cottage was charged at 15p a head, and there was a brisk trade in souvenirs. And that seems to be that.

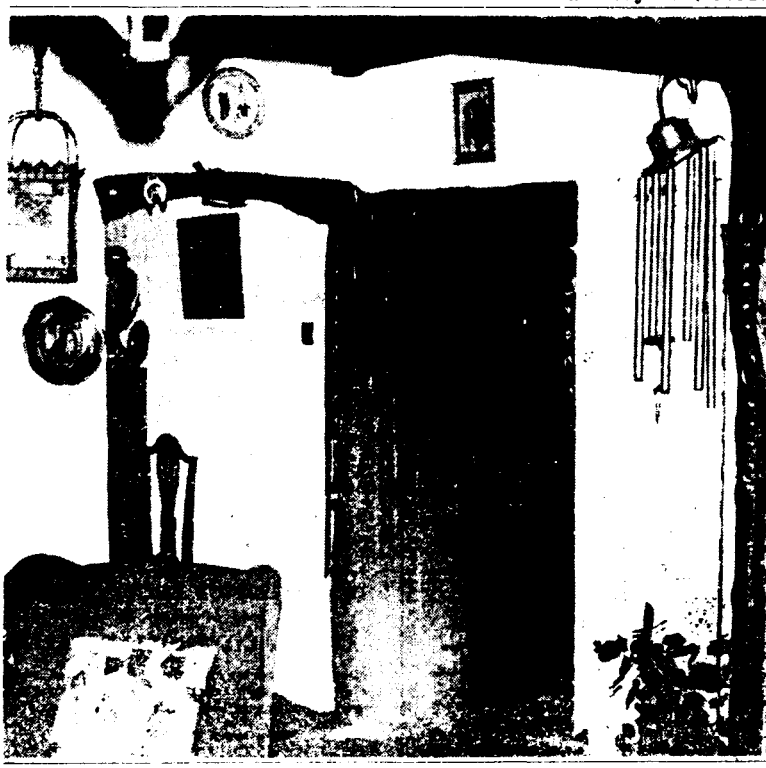
But we wonder. We see no need to multiply mysteries unnecessarily (to paraphrase Mr Occam), but our Fortean suspicions are always aroused by

neat manoeverings that close the book on a mystery. We have seen such actions before, and have maintained a keen interest in the way hoaxes run their courses. Hoaxers, like liars as Fort observed, are often of conservative imagination, preferring often as not to elaborate on some existing mystery, rather than invent a new one, since there was bound to be some credibility or continuity there to trade upon. We wonder if there had not been some mysterious happenings already in the village, and that in exploiting them things escalated beyond expectations so that there was discomfort in high places? The Sun report said that,over Easter, over 5000 visitors packed the streets every day. For a little,previously inconspicuous village that could be the size of a panic, and the beginnings of yearning for the peace and quiet of yesterday. We are told that the experts over a month and with much expensive equipment were completely baffled about the nature of the image on the stone floor and for all our knocking of 'experts' it doesn't seem likely that the chemicals used in the trick exposure of the image onto the stone could have escaped attention for long - scientists being what they are would have checked the rather obvious idea of trick photography with some priority. But then again, who can tell? We say the above in the full knowledge that a cleverly aged skull with an added ape-jaw and said to be 'Piltdown Man' fooled 'experts' for about 45 years. Clearly we need more investigations.

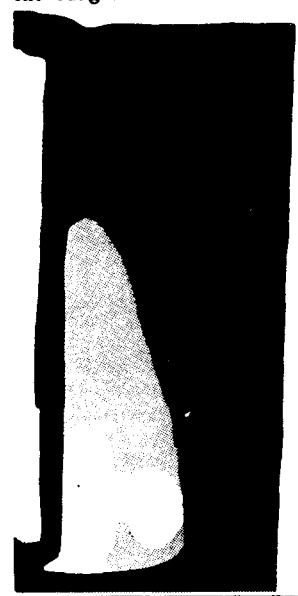
THE UNEXPECTED SPECTRE OF CHINGLE HALL.

Amateur historian Maurice Fitchett had been studying the 13th century Chingle Hall, near Goosnargh, Lancs, for nearly six weeks. Then, developing a film of interior shots taken the same day, he saw a whitish patch of light against the door of the old cross-beamed dining-room. Naturally he was surprised because he could recall no such illumination when he took the photo. Tests to determine if it was the glare from his flashgun were also negative. The whole experience has changed his mind about the existence of ghosts, saying that now he definitely believes in them. He added that he had seen a flashgun go off by itself, heard mysterious footsteps, and watched a heavy doorlatch in the dining-room lift and drop, but ignored them all until he developed the film. He showed the film to a medium and was told the white shape was the aura of a guardian spirit, and that the greenish tinge on some exteria shots of the Hall could have come from a healing spirit.

Well,whether or not that is so, we do have a photo that shows an image where there was none in the scene photographed (to the naked eye, at least). Fitchett said that he tried to erase the white patch through development processes,but it stubbornly stayed. And when he enlarged it he could make out a vague body shape. "I made prints through filters but it wouldn't go. You can see the outline of two legs and a body." This story and photo is from the Lancashire Evening Post, 27 July 74 (Credit: DJ McAlister) and it closes



The ghostly outline is pretty faint and may not be visible after printing so we take the liberty of exaggerating the major differences in tone in the region of the door, in the diagram below.

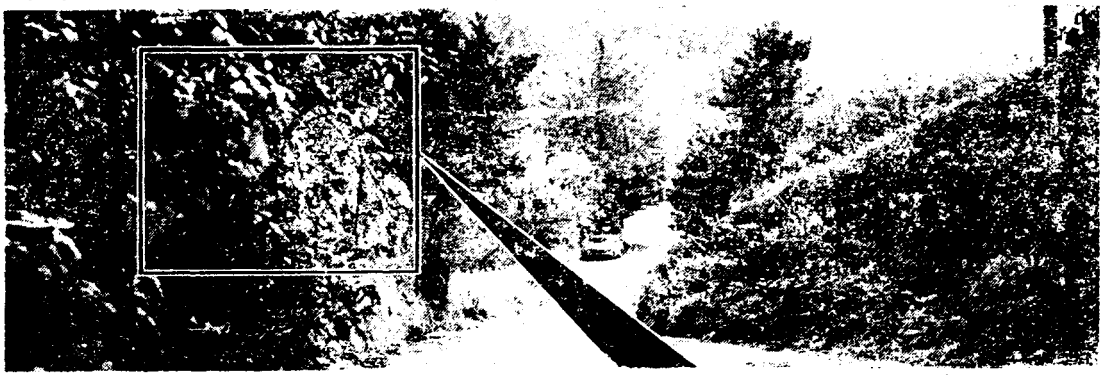


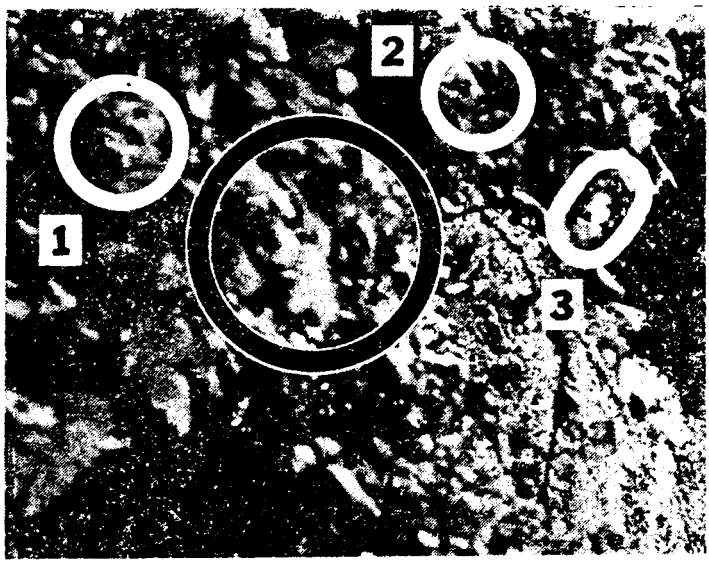
with references to previous sightings of a ghost said to haunt the Hall in the form of a monk. Mrs Margaret Howarth, the present owner, also said that this was not the first time "an inexplicable shape has turned up on a photo of Chingle Hall. Once, an unaccountable 'something' appeared on a photograph taken upstairs. But I must admit I am quite surprised by the photograph taken by Mr Fitchett."

FACES GALORE.

Perhaps there was something in the air, or drinking water towards the end of March this year? Over the same period as the previous story there was a national hunt for ghost faces. The Sunday People, 23 March 75, published a photo of a lane in Devon, taken 8 years ago by Colin Tilney - in fact the hedge that bounds his cottage grounds at Dawlish. He didn't notice any face until he examined the photos nearly a year later, when he saw the image of a young girl in the hedge. About a month ago ((from the time of the SP report)) he learned that a neighbour had seen an apparition in the lane: "The shape of a young girl in the hedge. It frightened the life out of him," said Mr Tilney. She knew nothing about the photo, but said she always had trouble getting her Alsatian past the spot where the girl was seen.

So, either we have another inexplicable image imprinted onto film, or a conicidence that should belong in out synchronicity file. Mr Tilney says he finds the photo inexplicable. "I have examined it minutely and there is no question of the face being caused by a combination of light and shade or leaf formation." A spokesman for Ilford, the makers of the film, said: "Our laboratories have examined the negative and in their opinion it has





LEFT: The photo of Oliver Reed from Sunday People, 27 April 75. TOP: Mr Tilney's photo of his hedge in Dawlish, Devon. ABOVE: Ringed in black is the face originally seen by Mr Tilney. Nos 1 and 2 were seen by some readers as human faces, No 1 having a black bushy beard. Nos 2 and 3 were seen by others as 'doggy' faces, No 3 being upside-down. (from Sunday People, 6 April 75)

not been tampered with. Nor does it appear to be a fake or copy negative." (Credit: Nigel Watson.)

The same paper on April 27th, declared that many readers had written in to say they had seen clearly another face in another picture in the same issue that carried the above Tilney photo. It was a publicity shot of Oliver Reed, sans pants watering the garden of his mansion in Dorking, Surrey. One even saw a horses head in the undergrowth of the picture. The paper had to plead not to be sent any more news of such shocking discoveries. (Credit: Nigel Watson.)

But back to Mr Tilney's photo. This also brought a flood of letters to the paper, some being printed in the 6 April issue. What astonished the paper was that so many people identified the same images. (Please see the photos, which we hope will turn out recognizably.) This report also mentioned that a Mrs M Farnan of Edgware, Middlesex, sent in a colour picture of herself, husband and daughter, showing in the background something resembling a young Serviceman. She said her son had been killed in 1942 while serving in the Royal Marines. These baffling photos will probably remain mysteries, says the Sunday People. Certainly, if no one bothers to investigate them, say we. Let's hope someone sometime takes up the challenge.

RICHARD III's BACK.

Mr Neville H Davies, of Waltham, played the lead in the Cleethorpes Amateur Dramatic Society presentation of 'Dickon', a play that is said to be free of the Tudor propaganda that blackened the reputation of Richard III. Mr Davies and his friends took the project seriously and spent many weeks in research for the parts they took on. As part of this study, Neville Davies and his wife went to vist Bosworth Field, the scene of the battle in which Richard was defeated and killed. And while there, his wife took a photo of him standing by Richard's well. When the film came back from the processers, the Davieses were surprised to find a larger-than-life figure of a man in medieval clothing "wearing the white rose of York on his breast" standing beside him. This story appears in the Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph, 24 March 75 (Credit: Nigel Watson) which reproduced a black-and-white copy of the original colour-print in which "the 'ghostly' face is a healthy pink, and the jewelled collar round its throat is a bright red."

Mr Davies assures us all that he had put a new roll of film into the camera on the day of the visit, and that this prodigy is on the first frame. "If anyone else had shown me this photo I would immediately say that it was a double-exposure." But he took no such exposure.

On the 27 March, the same paper described the efforts of their photographic staff to unravel the mystery, but they only succeeded in deepening it. "In order to reproduce the colour picture, our darkroom staff took a black-and-white photograph of the colour print. So what you saw in the paper was a reproduction of a reproduction. The 'mystery' face was still visible, however, though obviously much definition was lost." Recall Mr Fitchett's attempts to remove his uninvited patch of light without success. The paper continues: "Thoroughly intrigued, our chief darkroom technician, Colin Partis, borrowed the actual colour negative from Mr Davies. The 'image' in this is clearly visible to the naked eye. Using his most 'contrasty' paper, Colin made a black-and-white print directly from the colour negative. He got a perfectly good picture of King Richard's well and Mr Davies standing beside it - and not a trace of the 'interloper' to be seen. A

Neville Davies at 'King Richard's Well', Bosworth. Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph, 24 March 75.

Portrait of Richard III.

shaken Colin Partis insists that this is "photographic nonsense". The image ought, logically, to show up, he says, pointing elsewhere in the picture at spots of the same colours which have 'come out' perfectly well."

A final twist came when the photo was shown to members of the 'Richard III Society' who recognized the 'image' as a known portrait of Dick. And again, Mr Davies insists that it was a new film, and not double-exposed on any frame. As the earlier report commented, even if there was a double-exposure, overlooked by the Davieses in some way, "it still is a most odd coincidence." Credit: Nigel Watson.

...A WOMAN SCORNED...

According to the News of the World, 20 April 75, at least three seperate claims had been made that the ghost of a woman, spurned by the man she loved, has returned to haunt the ruins of a monastery in Glendalough, Co Wicklow. The woman, Kathleen, who tried the patience of Saint Kevin, soon learned to her cost that he had none as far as women where concerned. He is said to have slept on a cliff vowing "Woman shall ne'er found my bed." (or somesuch), and on being pursued by the beautiful Kathleen, whipped her with nettles and pushed her into a lake ((just doesn't have the same finesse as a frog down the front of her dress, does it?)). Anyway, a carpenter, Leslie Armstrong found that pictures of himself and his fiancée Emily Browne, taken at the scenes thereabouts, included the image of a woman wearing a red shawl or dress in one of them. They are certain there was no-one about when they took them. Also mentioned is a Mrs Everette Chisamore of Alberta, Canada, who "claims to have a photo of the legendary woman in red." There are no other details, nor any reproductions of the photos.

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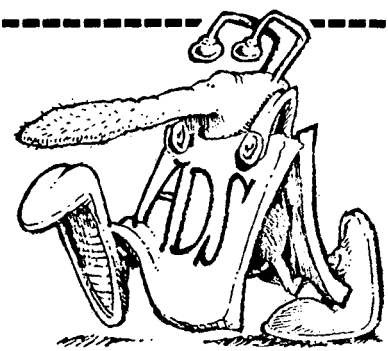

Cont from p5:

A COUPLE OF ANIMAL GHOSTS.

Hurst Green, Sussex. — a letter to the Daily Mirror, 28 Jan 74, mentions that the Feetum family acquired a ghost cat when they moved into a 200yr-old cottage. It seems that their own cat ignores it completely, but the humans in the family can see it plainly. No other world-shattering observations. Credit: S Moore; R Forrest.

Motherwell, Lanarkshire. — this one smacks of student prankery, but short of looking into it we can't be sure. It seems that people with houses near the Motherwell Trotting Stadium were frequently disturbed by the sounds of a horse galloping round the track at odd times in the night. Robert Kennedy, who has put in complaints doesn't say to whom) regularly, said: "The first time I heard them, I thought one of the horses had broken out of the stables. But there was no sign of any horse, only the thud of hooves. Since then many people have heard the galloping ghost." It is said that they always stop at a point in the track where a stallion called Lucky Venture died in a track accident almost two years previously. Jim Mann and Tom Robertson, of Strathclyde Univ. somehow managed to get permission to carry out an exorcism on the track with the idea of helping Lucky Venture join those other riders in the sky. Versions of the exorcism conflict. One witness, Duncan Osbourne, said: "I expected the ceremony to be much more spectacular. It could be that they exorcised the wrong horse. Another horse died at the track earlier this year ((1974))." But according to Mann: "It was sensational. Everyone experienced a coldness in the air. The horse stopped about 50 yards from us, jumping up and down, surrounded by a blue-green light. Then I carried out my exorcism and there were no more hoofbeats that night. I think we may have been successful." In a postscript, that the newspaper calls a 'tail piece', it is mentioned that both exorcists claim to have found horse manure on the edge of the exorcism area, and swear that it had not been there when they started. Sounds like something might be trying to tell them something. News of the World, 4 Aug 74.

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Cont on p24.

AMAZING MENAGERIE

by COLIN BORD

The probability that pumas slink in the woods of Surrey, Forteans might accept without question, but are there also to be found wild boars and lion cubs loose in Hampshire, kangaroos bounding through Sussex and Kent, and leopards loping through outer London? Reports made between 1962 and 1973 suggest that it is so (1). The list of anomalous animals loose in the British Isles reads like a work on zoology. Fort has reports of lynxes seen and shot in Scotland in 1927 and a jackal shot in Kent in 1905 (2). The reports of pumas seen in recent years seem to provide a link with the widespread folklore of black dog apparitions known variously as Barguest, Trash hound, Shriker, Black Shuck or Pooka, depending on which area of the country the folk tale originated in.

But animal oddities do not confine themselves to these islands. In 1931 a hairy, apelike creature was seen several times in New York county (3 & 13), well away from the north-west of the continent where the hairy sasquatch has been seen regularly since the 1920s (4). Nearer the centre of the continent, in Missouri, a very similar beast has been lurking for many a year. He, she, it or they were often seen in July and August 1972, when the locals abbreviated the name of the Missouri Monster into the more friendly sound of Momo (5). Although these particular areas have produced many reports, similar monsters have appeared irregularly in many other localities in the U.S.

Hairy anthropoids appear not only on the American continent. In 1832 a shaggy biped was seen in Nepal, and one more incident was thus added to the long-standing legend of the yeti, which was well known throughout the region. Over the years many more sightings and some tracks have provided cumulative evidence for the existence of this creature (4). Further to the south-east in Thailand and Cambodia there is an old tradition of the 'Mouth Men' or Tok. The late Ivan Sanderson, in his journal Pursuit, quotes a report from the area, where, in 1969, villagers near the Mekong river had seen two ten-feet-tall monkey men roaming the jungle (6) A group of hunters were so frightened that they fled without firing a shot. Later a farmer saw two creatures in his fields making sounds like a child crying. A third sighting was made by a group of guerillas, and when one of the creatures hurled a rock at them they ran for their lives.

From our own native Surrey puma to the Himalayan yeti and North American sasquatch, the one characteristic that all these creatures have in common is that of elusiveness. They are seen briefly by one or more witnesses, but when the search parties, trackers and dogs go out, not a trace can be seen other than the occasional footprint. In many cases the question of where such a creature would find a sufficient food supply cannot be adequately answered. How could the Loch Ness monster (or even, as has been postulated, a herd of such animals) obtain enough sustenance within the confines of the loch? And if there is a breeding herd there, why have remains of a dead monster never been found? These questions apply not only to Loch Ness but to other inland lakes in the British Isles which are of appreciably smaller area than the Loch and which also have their legends and reports of monster life. F.W. Holiday has investigated some of the lakes in Ireland where sighting

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reports and legends have originated, even to the extent of dragging some of the smaller lakes with nets, but with no positive result (7). Wales too has isolated lakes among the mountains where tales of water monsters have long been told, and the same can be said of the U.S.A. and Canada. There is a wealth of sea serpent reports, and some 580 of them dating from the seventeenth century up to 1966, from all the oceans of the world, can be found in Heuvelmans' definitive book, IN THE WAKE OF THE SEA SERPENTS (8).

Strange creatures inhabit our air space, too. Last September, while listening to one of London's new commercial radio stations, I heard a report stating than an unusual bird, later identified as a West African Crowned Crane, had been seen a number of times in the West Drayton area, on the outskirts of London (9). The local paper carried a report which stated that there had been similar sightings over the past two years (10). On the same day, some 150 miles away (as the crane flies), two birds of the same exotic species were seen on the moorlands of mid-Wales (11)*. The experts' explanation in both cases was that they must be escapees from private zoos. In neither case was it likely that each expert whose opinion was published in the Press was aware of the other sighting, made at very nearly the same time. I would like to hear their explanation for the giant 15-feet-tall penguin that was seen over several months and left tracks over 13 inches long in Florida in 1948. Similar tracks up to 18 inches long have been found in many parts of the southern hemisphere (12).

In late 1966 the Ohio valley area of West Virginia, U.S.A., became a focal point for reports of an airborne man-like figure that was quickly dubbed by the media as 'Mothman' (13 & 15). The witness descriptions all agreed on a general description which indicated that the figure was usually 6 or 7 feet tall, very broad at the top but without any apparent separate head. Of greyish colour, its striking characteristic was its eyes, described as luminous and bright red, up to 3 inches across and placed near the top of the figure's shoulders. It was sometimes seen on the ground, standing by a roadside or in a witness's yard, but it was more often seen airborne on its 10-foot span of wings which did not flap. Then it would often pursue cars up to 70 or 100 m.p.h., to the great terror of the occupants. Although many reports of Mothman exist, there is to my knowledge only one report of the bat lady of Vietnam (14). This creature was seen one night in July or August 1969 by three U.S. soldiers on guard duty. As they studied the night terrain, there floated overhead an all-black female with outstretched arms that had wings growing from them. The whole figure emitted a greenish glow but otherwise appeared to be a normal woman about 5 feet tall.

Many of these reports seem to be linked with an increase of UFO sightings in the area at the same time, notably the sasquatch and mothman reports. These latter very often occur at times of increased aerial activity of the lights-in-the-sky variety (13, 15, 16). In his book, URI, Andrija Puharich reports on the number of times that strange hawk-like birds hovered near him while there was UFO activity in the vicinity (17). Uri Geller's own view was that the birds were one of the forms adopted by the intelligences with which they (Geller and Puharich) were in contact, another such form being that of the spacecraft itself.

All these manifestations are usually considered in isolation. The Loch Ness investigators take no interest in reports of Momo, while those who study reports of sea serpents know nothing of the huge number of folktales and modern reports from all parts of Britain relating to large black dogs. If there were one centralised clearing house to collate and study all such reports, what an amazing web of worldwide paranormal activity might be revealed to us. Could it be that all the above phenomena have the same origin? So that the energy or intelligence that, in the form of an aquatic monster, slowly rises to the surface of a Scottish loch to provide an excited group of watchers with a 'sighting', may on another occasion appear in the woods of western Canada or on the slopes of the Himalayas as a hairy biped, complete with shuffling gait and rancid odour. To try and assign one source to all the phenomena mentioned would probably be an oversimplification. Perhaps some of the more solid and identifiable animals and birds could be accounted for by the little-understood, and even less believable, hypothesis of teleportation. There are a few known cases of this in ufology (18) and in the writings of Fort, though John Keel suggests that the phenomenon may be more widespread than is generally thought (19).

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* ((**Colin and Janet Bord sent us their news reports on these birds. We have a file a-building on African Crowned Cranes and other exotic alien birds and winged weirdos seen in the British Isles - and we'll disgorge the lot all over our pages about a couple of issues hence - Ed.**))

Conceivably, certain magnetic or atmospheric anomalies could occur naturally, and would cause unsuspecting beasts padding about their own business in the jungle to suddenly find themselves transported to the English countryside, where, after an hour or two roaming in the woods and causing a sighting and a search by the authorities, they would equally suddenly find themselves back in their native haunts, when the planetary currents went into reverse switching. This idea need not be confined to our own three-dimensional solidity. The traffic between this world and the unseen dimensions, of which we are becoming increasingly aware, could be of a two-way nature, as is suggested by the strange disappearances in that 'vile vortex' known as the Bermuda Triangle. A two-way ticket is not guaranteed, though the Rip van Winkle tales of fairy lore suggest that the waiting period over there might not be so tedious as it would seem to us, stuck in the 3-D terrestrial world.

The connection between the appearance of UFOs and monsters may be an extremely important one. As suggested by Geller (17), both forms may be a matter of convenience adopted by visiting entities from other realms. To be able to take a form that would keep mankind at a distance while at the same time arrousing his curiosity may very well suit the intentions of these intelligences. What would appear to us as an animal of the 'lower' order could in fact be a carefully monitored organic entity telepathically relaying streams of information up to the waiting UFO. And in the same way that UFOs seem to have the ability to manifest at varying densities, from the most tenuous mist-like forms right through the gamut of solidity to the most solid machines capable of crushing rock lumps as they touch down on the earth's surface, so too may these denizens of the nether regions vary their level of solidity, sometimes being heavy enough to leave tracks on hard earth, while at other times not even leaving a trace on soft mud.

The possibility that some of these phenomena have an earthly origin should not be ignored. With the upsurge of interest in and practice of ritual magic in recent years, we may be considering the results of experiments that have got out of hand. The conjuration of psychic entities and the production of seemingly solid mental phantasms are practices that have long been known to researchers into the occult, and are considered to be a cause of real danger to those without experienced guidance.

The truth, if we ever find it, would probably prove to be more involved than any of the simplistic suggestions above. Whether in our present state we could even attempt to understand it is another matter.

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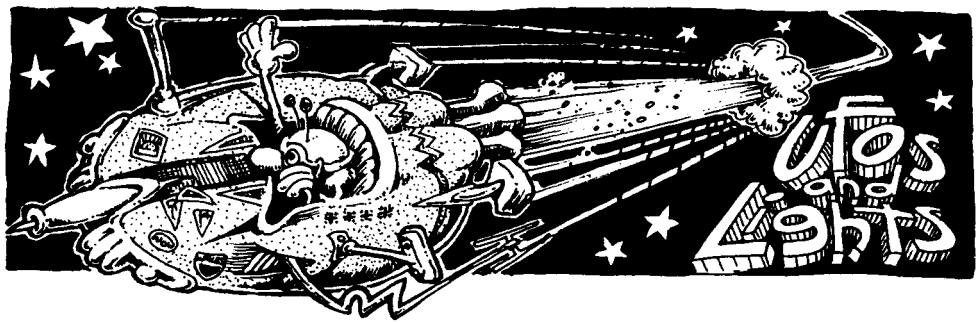
"Her unshakeable belief in God would inspire me too, if it weren't for the fact that I know she also has an unshakeable belief in the Loch Ness monster and flying saucers."



It would be impossible for our miniscule set-up to offer any degree of UFO reportage in competition with the established magazines and organisations. Indeed we have no desire to compete -- UFOlogy is such a large subject these days and served well by those mags and orgs. But stories do come our way, and so we print them here to get them recorded somewhere at least. UFOs, in our view, like ghosts, are one of the 'doorway' subjects through which the inquiring mind is brought to a wide range of closely interconnected unorthodox studies. In our view, UFOs should not be considered without reference to all human knowledge and experience, nor without taking into account the extent of the phenomenon's relationship to the perceptual and conceptual structures of both the individual observer and of our species in general.

The reactions of humans to UFOs is in its way just as interesting as the events themselves. For instance, the Daily Telegraph, which rarely if ever prints news of sightings, did report a curious story under the title 'Martians divide Italian Town.'(18 Feb 74). Two young boys in the town of Marina Franca, near Bari, southern Italy were facing charges of "simulating a crime and spreading reports which could create public anxiety." The boys had told the police that they had seen Martians step out of a spacecraft on the outskirts of the town. A local magistrate with a reputation for unorthodox and lenient sympathies was said to be in danger of losing all his friends because of his attempts to save the two boys. An investigation into the boys' sighting was begun and then dropped, when the magistrate, Francesco di Giorgio, filed countercharges against the Martians "for violating public property by landing on it in a flying saucer." Good Grief! It just goes to show... (Credit: D Sutton.)

12 ALIENS ON ICE IN OHIO?

On Friday 11 Oct 74, a Florida radio station broadcast an interview with a 'UFO expert', Robert Carr, in which he alleged that sometime in 1948, two saucers landed in the Mojave Desert, California, and that, after being tracked on military radar, the bodies of the occupants were recovered intact and being kept frozen at the Wright-Patterson airbase, near Dayton, Ohio. And when this was repeated on other news-stations, it caused quite a stir, as you can imagine. There were immediate denials from the Air Force - and the fact that such denials were expected as part of a general suspicion of a cover-up, only confuses the issue further.

As reporters followed the smell - Carr is revealed as a 65-year-old retired professor of mass communication (State University of Florida), and a "sometime script-writer", and that he was being interviewed as promoting a 'Flying Saucer Symposium' to be held in Tampa the following month. He had kept quiet about this startling story for some time because his job as a teacher forced him to stay "responsible".

Whether this was a planned stunt or not, Carr is suddenly in great demand, as calls jam the switchboards of newspapers and stations in requests for more information. If our two US sources are any indication, that must have been something. Carr said that searchers had found the two crashed UFOs, and discovered 12 bodies inside, "dead as a result of decompression when the windows of their spacecraft cracked." They were 3ft tall, well-muscled, with blue-eyes and military-style cropped blond hair, and fair skin weathered by "the ultraviolet rays they encountered during their space-travel" They were moved to the Wright-Patterson base under tight security in 1950, Carr said, the government keeping quiet for fear of public panic.

All this sounds too good to be true, involving all the standard elements of "nuts and bolts' type stories. By the time it got to the British Sunday papers, there were further details. That a cloak of secrecy hid the comings and goings of experts to the base, all sworn to keep their mouths shut. "A surgeon who conducted a post-mortem was said to have been absolutely stunned by the beings...For little men they certainly had big brains. These were more advanced than the brain of any living human being on Earth." This kind of statement usually gets up our nose. The use of the word 'advanced' can only be justified if you are comparing, say, two stages in a continuous evolution. What they mean perhaps is simply 'different'. The English paper continues: "Reporters at the radio station (?) have already come up with more information. They say the frozen bodies of the 12 spacelings are now in a maximum security base in Alabama. And they claim that psychologists let into the secret are under close guard at another base in New Mexico.

But nobody appears to know what happened to the spaceship." No mention is made of how Carr came by all this highly secret information; no apparent reason why he should be called in on any investigations, except the seed of something... "The government was prepared to let the secret out over a 6-month period after taking advice from social psychologists about the effects of revealing the truth." Who said this? Carr himself!

The perennial argument that the US authorities are supressing information on UFOs has had considerable knocks these days -- and surely most of its credibility should have vanished in the wake of Watergate. We don't doubt that there are cases where info has been sat upon, but to speak of organised conspiracy is to ignore the practicalities in structures that size riddled with inefficiencies, administrative anomalies, and general human error. One newsman, who knew Carr personally, said publicly that Carr was heading "for a rip-off" by promoting interest in his symposium, but this warning was soon forgotten in the raucus hunt for the aliens. A spokesman for station CKLW, Detroit, said: "We believe the story is true and we're not the only ones. The government doesn't want to tell us about it because the alien ships were controlled by anti-gravity power which the US government has been trying to work on for years. Maybe we'll take a little ridicule on this but maybe if several million people start to believe this, then the Air Force will have to tell us more." The last word from Carr: "President Ford is about to embark on a new policy of telling us all about UFOs, and the first revelation will come before Christmas." We didn't hear anything - did you? Compiled from: Arkansas Gazette, 13 Oct 74; Detroit (Michigan) News, 18 Oct 74, (Credit both to Mark Hall); Sunday Mirror, 27 Oct 74 (Credit: Nigel Watson).

Illustration by DON ROBERTS.

As we go to press we notice an item in New Scientist, 29 May 75, that seems calculated to polarise both extreme opposite opinions on UFO cover-ups by governments. It is that J Allen Hynek, director of the brave new Centre for UFO Studies (at Northfield, Illinois) was given five pages of the FBI's 'Law Enforcement Bulletin' to explain the Centre's activities. Some of the points Hynek dealt with were the number of sightings that involved policemen; the establishment of a "toll-free" hotline so that the various law enforcement agencies could forward news of incidents 24hrs a day, 7 days a week; and the role the policeman can play in protecting the scene of a sighting in the same manner as they preserve the scene of a crime - and also the witnesses, since Hynek observed, "curiosity seekers and souvenir hunters" had wrecked sites and pestered witnesses before investigators arrived, often to the extent that the witnesses became discouraged from reporting their experiences further.

A COUPLE OF ANTIQUES.

Steve Moore came across the following comment in S Baring Gould's CURIOUS MYTHS OF THE MIDDLE AGES, quoting from 'The Thuringian Chronicle': "In 1398, at mid-day, there appeared suddenly three great fires in the air, which presently ran together into one globe of flame, parted again and finally sank into the Hörselberg." Steve notes that the Hörselberg is a mountain in southeast Germany, near Gotha, and is also the site of the Venus and Tannhauser legend.

Anders Liljegren sent us the following translation of a passage from SVENSKA VINGAR (Swedish Wings), issued by Holger Schildts Förlag of Stockholm, 1929, in which the author discribed a strange phenomenon experienced by him and two companions during a baloon trip in 1910: "All three of us caught sight of something at the same time. Something coming down from space. All three were staring. There came a big fireball, ruby red. Grew in size. Course: straight at the balloon! The phenomenon lighted up this foggy world, a giant phenomenon of chaotic, boiling movements; ruby red with black shadows. Seconds of waiting for this glowing ball in a firm orbit towards the balloon felt like a hardening grasp over your throat. The panorama became a vision, overwhelming, straining every nerve and muscle. Then it was gone. In the moment you expected the collision to take place, the light grew weaker and died. There was a deep, black darkess left. A meteor or what? " Make of that what you will.

1973 -- SEDGELEY BEACON & BOURNEMOUTH.

Mrs Bella Hughes, of Kenilworth Cres. Wolverhampton, Staffs, spotted a bright star-like object from her home on the 4th Nov, at about 5.30. pm. "It was hovering just over Sedgeley Beacon. What made me keep looking was that it kept fading then coming back very brightly." This continued for about 15 minutes then it vanished. Express & Star, 6 Nov 73. Credit: A Smith.

The Sun, 13 Feb 73 -- that an unidentified flying object "like a huge luminous wheel" was spotted by Bournemouth coastguards. No further details, here anyway, but if you look up Flying Saucer Review, V.19 No4 (July/Aug 74) you'll find letters from one of the coastguards referring to the above 'wheel' seen on the 11th Feb, and a second, not reported to the papers, seen on the 17th Feb, which appeared alongside a fairly conventional UFO complete with portholes.(FSRp30).

PEMBROKE, WALES.

In contrast to the coastguards mentioned above, the Pembroke officers dismissed reports made by camping schoolboys in the early morning, as sparks from a local power-station. Guess it very much depends on what you see with your own eyes - but even then you can't be sure. Anyway, the local police decided to side with the schoolboys. "The coastguards can say what they like, but sparks from the power-station are just an easy way out," said Pc Roger Davies. No date or other information given. Sunday People, 14 April 74. Credit: Nigel Watson.

HANGING HOUGHTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

David Gwinn and his wife went to their bedroom after watching a late-night TV film one night early in April 73. And from the window of their house in Hanging Houghton, near Northampton, they watched two strange luminous objects in the sky for more than half an hour, during which time they hovered not 500yds from the house. They were bright orange and appeared to revolve while moving slowly along. They first noticed the lights at about 2.30 am, Mr Gwinn said: "At first there was only one in the sky. Then another appeared about a mile away and started moving until the two were alongside. We watched them for a while then telephoned the police. Eventually the objects began moving away and disappeared behind a hill. It was uncanny and I must admit a little frightening."

At first, the police denied that any such incident had been reported to them -- then an inspector is quoted: "The report of Mr Gwinn's call wasn't passed onto me. But after making inquiries I found there was a record of such an incident." A car crew had been sent to investigate, and the inspector said: "We feel that Mr Gwinn and his wife could have seen the reflections of a barn at Upton which is illuminated at night. There is no other logical explanation.' Well, if that's logic, it's a shabby shade of its former self!

Mr Gwinn apparently thinks so too. "I certainly don't accept the explanation. How does one account for them hovering in the sky, appearing one at a time, then slowly disappearing over the horizon? Upton is at least ten miles away from our home. I've never given a thought to UFOs so I wouldn't be prepared to say that this was what we had seen." That last sounds eminently sensible to us. Northamptonshire News, 18 April 74. Credit: BR Bates.

RUNCORN, CHESHIRE.

In the last week of May 74, five boys were walking, late at night, across Runcorn Golf Course when they saw a weird pulsating object flashing in the sky above the Rocksavage Works. It was about 10.40pm and they were making their way from Clifton Rd towards Lambsickle Rd when they encountered the "silver light. It was bigger than a star and moving too quickly for a plane and without any sound. It was very high and disappeared into the clouds. We all thought it was a UFO. We were all scared", said one. A spokesman for Liverpool airport said something about reflection on planes of the sun below the horizon. Runcorn Weekly News, 30 May 74. Credit: Peter Rogerson.

HARBOURNE, BIRMINGHAM.

Reports by the people living near Harbourne Golf Course of glowing objects darting about the local sky were referred to a special "Fling Saucer" department (sic) of the Minisrty ((There you go, crowing over the errors and typoes of others, then tripping over your own fat fingers. I meant, of course:)) Ministry of Defence, after checks by Birmingham University and Birmingham Airport failed to establish any conventional reason. The residents of Bournevale Park estate have had a letter from the MOD, that the reports "are being examined to see if there are any defence implications. A policeman's wife, herself a policewoman in former times, said: "One of the sightings was very frightening. It seemed to hover right overhead then drop suddenly. The objects are quite silent and glow orange turning to white sometimes leaving a red trail. Through binoculars they seem to be a tubular light." She said that more than a dozen people living near her home in Wentworth Way had seen 'UFOs' in the last 3 weeks. Initially they travelled south to north, but after not being seen during a spell of cloudy weather, they reappeared travelling east to west. Birmingham Evening Mail, 8 July 74. Credit: David Sutton.

STOCKTON/HARTLEPOOL, CLEVELAND.

An unidentified man reported seeing a 'UFO' in the sky over Stockton, heading towards Hartlepool at about midnight on the 20th July. The police said they had only the one report. Northern Daily Mail, 22 July 74. Credit: P Screeton.

PLUMSTEAD, LONDON.

On the night of the 8th Sept 74, three people in a flat in Bostall Lane, Plumstead, saw a "brilliant sulphurous light" hovering over the Common and shoot off into the sky at great speed.

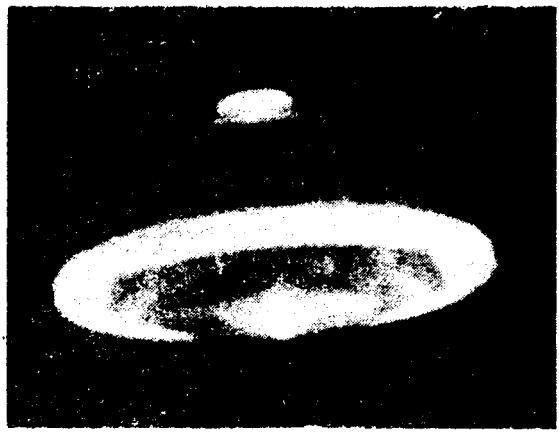
Later, three more sightings came to light on that night and into the morning of the 9th. One woman said that something must have roused her from her sleep and when she got up she saw the bright orange light flash across the sky, in the early hours of the morning. Another woman and her husband were having a cup of tea at 11.25pm when they too saw the round blazing light streak past at phenomenal speed."We just stood on the balcony in awe and we were so amazed we took down the exact time. I saw this with my own two eyes. It was quite an experience." And Mrs Hilda Faulkner of Eltham, said she saw it about mid-morning on the 9th. "I was sitting at home when out of the corner of my eye I saw a fantastically bright glare moving slowly across the sports ground behind our house." MOD said they were looking into it. It seems strange to us that a light of the described intensity over a London suburb during Saturday night into Sunday mid-day, should not have been seen by more people.

Kentish Independant, 12 & 19 Sept 74. Credit: Steve Moore.

BOURNEMOUTH, AGAIN...

The photo below appeared in the News of the World, 3 Nov 74 (Credit: Dave Baldock, BR Bates.) It was said to have been taken at about 8.45pm on the night of 21 Oct 74, by Gregory Marchant, a lorry-driver of Highlands Cres, Kinson, Bournemouth. A fuller report by a member of SCAN, the local UFO group, appeared in Flying Saucer Review V.20 No3, p31 (Dec 74). Through his bedroom window he saw a greeny-blue light zipping through the sky. Grabbing his polaroid camera, he dashed outside. He had forgotten there was a flashcube attatched, and was startled when it went off. When he could see again the light was gone. "It had no particular shape to the naked eye and had the appearance of a fluorescent light, brilliant white, but green and mauve near the top and orange beneath. The upper portion appeared to be rotating, and its size was half to three-quarters of an inch at arms length," says the FSR report, based on a "very strenuous interview" with Marchant.

In the NOW article SCAN's PR man, Ron McClure, said: "This is no fake. There can be no doubt about this one and no 'official' explanation could dismiss this picture. It must be the best ever taken." And regarding its similarity to the Adamski-type craft, he said: "For years some experts thought the famous Adamski pictures were fakes. Until now we've been skeptical, but as a result of this Marchant sighting there's no doubt in our minds that the Adamski craft did exist." The original account appeared in the Bournemouth Evening Echo of 23 Oct, and this contained the information that then, just two days after the sighting, Marchant had been accused of faking it. This he denies, and the FSR report said that his honest and open attitude impressed the investigaters who state that they believe him and discount the idea of a hoax.



Well - No doubt much to McClure's disgust, the dismissals have not come from 'officials' but from a UFO group based miles away in Northampton. The Northamptonshire News, 9 Jan 75 (Credit: BR Bates.) The members of MUFORIA claim the photo is a fake. "We have experimented with a Polaroid camera and have found it would be impossible to take such a sharp photograph of an object which it is admitted was moving at speed. It must have been set up either with the use of a bathroom heater or an ultraviolet lamp, " said Robert Birkett, treasurer of MUFORIA. It is not quite clear how they got a copy of the photo, or even the original, but it seems that SCAN may have sent it to them. Birkett wrote to SCAN saying: "This sighting was not only strange but if the facts presented are to be believed, verges on the farcial. Polaroid cameras have a fixed shutter speed of between 1/25th and 1/30th of a second. Yet the photo shows an object totally frozen in flight. Are we to believe that this object, which is said to be moving at a very low altitude, was not seen by more than one individual during its entire flight path across such a highly populated part of the country? This photo is in my opinion and that of other ufologists an unconvincing fake." Stranger things have happened... but in this your guess is as good as ours, probably a darn sight better. See also BUFORA Journal, vol 4 No6, for another SCAN report.

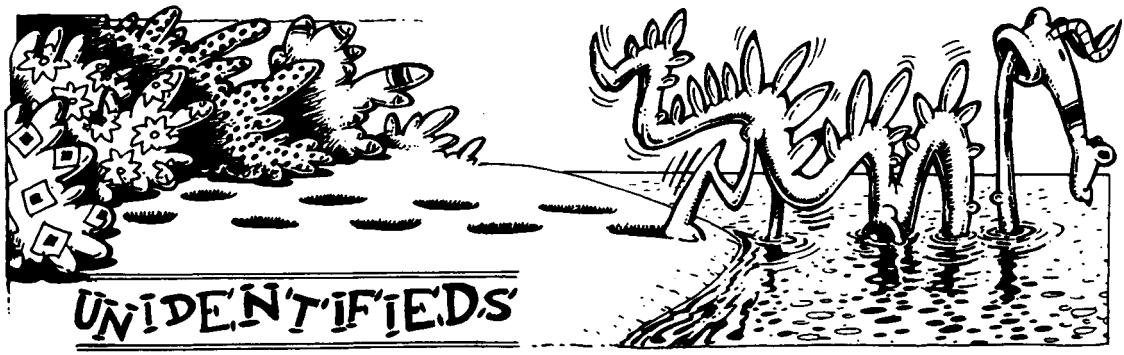
BROCKENHURST, HAMPSHIRE.

We're not sure whether this should be here or in some other section like Mystery Sounds, or something, since it seems to be the sound end of a 'phantom helicopter' story. The Southern Evening Echo, 9 April 75 (Credit: Roger Randle.) tells that Rescue Services rushed to Rhinefield House, near Brockenhurst, where staff reported hearing the engine of a helicopter cut out during a blizard (itself a rare thing in these parts, says Roger Randle.) Smoke was thought to have been seen over distant woods. Police, fire and ambulance men all joined in the search of dense and boggy woodland in this corner of the New Forest - a chopper from the Royal Navy helped from above. No helicopters have been reported missing in the area. That's the story according to the paper, but in his letter Roger says that a helicopter was seen by a young boy during the blizzard, who said he saw it pass overhead at a low altitude and disappear behind some trees. The only thing that springs to our minds is the search of Hockley Woods near Southend that failed to find any wreckage after someone reported hearing a plane crash in Aug 73 (see NEWS 3/6.) Perhaps we had better break out a new file for 'Phantom Accidents &c'.

HUGE JAPANESE 'SCARE'.

Not of a huge Japanese in a rubber Godzilla suit this time, but a mass sighting of a UFO formation seen over 'half the length of Japan'. There were 15 to 20 of the objects "like a string of pearls" inside a strange cloud, each objects trailing a small grey tail, seen by "hundreds" of people as it sped from north to south Japan "sighted over Japanese cities over 700 miles apart in less than an hour." The first reports came into the police in the city of Asahikawa on

Hokkaido, where the duty-officer said: "All the callers reported seeing a huge cloud passing over the city - they saw the orange objects inside the cloud moving in a straight line." A co-pilot of an All-Nippon plane said he was flying at 6000 ft, prior to landing at Tokyo International when he spotted the mist-shrouded UFOs about 5 miles in front of his aircraft. "15 or 16 luminous objects were flying southward at about 1000 ft above our plane. I could see greyish-blue objects flashing a brighter blue, and as they drew closer, they appeared to line up in two formations. The nearest they came was about a mile. The objects didn't show up on the aircraft's radar. Nor were they reported on the airport's radar." Prof Kitamura saw the dazzling display from the control room of Tokyo's Meteorological Bureau Station near the airport. "I was mystified. Nothing showed up on my radar. I reported my sighting to the airport control tower and they told me nothing showed up on their radar either. A spokesman for Japan's Self Defence Air Force only acknowledged that they had received reports on the evening of 15 Jan, but nothing else is said. The story is taken from Reveille, 25 April 75, headlined 'Silence over UFOs Scare', and we have heard nothing further on this. Credit: Graham Crowley; Nigel Watson.



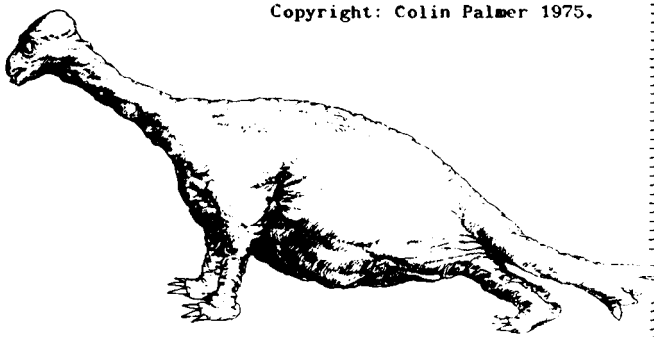
It seems ages since we had a gripping monster story from the British coast. There is a periodic flap at Skegness, according to Winston Kime's history of that town "SKEGGY!" (Seashell Books, Skegness, 1969), on page 142 of which he says: "Five or six years ago it was reported that a 'Skeg-ness Monster' had been sighted. A party from Wainfleet, visiting GibraltarPoint, saw this strange object, nine or ten feet long, moving swiftly through the water in the direction of Skegness...The 'monster' has been reported off Skegness several times since, and it always makes a good headline in the local paper." (Cr: Nigel Watson.) Anyone interested might try locating such east coast sightings.

But recently there's been a hue and cry up the Welsh coast, where much of a Fortean nature seems to be happening these days.

THE BARMOUTH MONSTER.

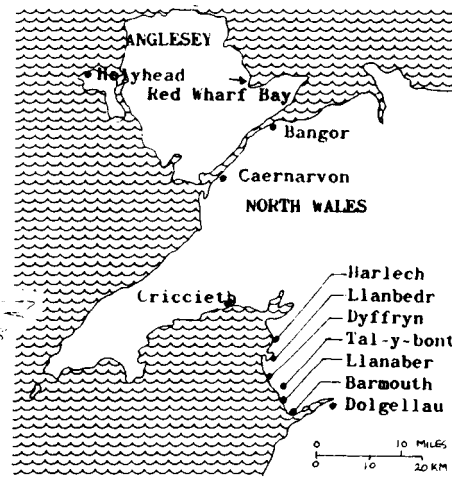
On 2 March 1975, six local schoolgirls, all aged 12, took a Sunday afternoon stroll on Llanaber beach, near the northern end of Barmouth promenade. They stopped in astonishment when they saw something unusual about 200yds ahead of them. "It was like a dinosaur," said two of the girls, Carys Jones and Julie Anderson. "The monster was about 10ft long, with a long tail, long neck and huge green eyes. It walked towards the sea and entered the water." Julie, whose father is one of the local coastguards, added tha the monster had feet like huge saucers, with 3 long pointed protruding nails. "It was horrible," she said. And as they turned to run in fright, the girls said they could see the green eyes above the water until the black monster disappeared into the sea. They rushed straight to the coastguards who later said that the girls were extremely upset by what they saw. Police and the coast guards kept an alert that night but there were no further sightings. As seems to be usual in our experiences with the unknown, the critical evidence of the tracks of the creature soon vanished before the rapidly rising tide. These were the initial details: compiled from The Western Mail (Cr: FW Holiday.); Liverpool Echo (Cr: AF Ashcroft.); Liverpool Daily Post (Cr: R Mowday.) all of 3 March 75; and Merioneth Express, 7 March 75.

The girls, all pupils at Ysgol Ardudwy, Harlech, all agreed on the description. One of their teachers had the idea of compiling a drawing of what they saw, and this was later issued as a postcard. In a letter to Phil & Margie Ledger, who were inquiring on our behalf, the teacher, Colin Palmer, said: "The drawing on the card is one compiled from interviewing each of the six girls seperately. The interesting thing is that respectable, sober citizens, after seeing the drawing, admitted seeing such a creature but either dismissed it as being something else at the time, or convinced themselves quite easily that they had not really seen anything." The card drew quite a lot of media attention and further accounts came forward. some of them, Colin says, are more detailed. We don't have them to hand as we go to press, but we do hope to bring you further details as they emerge, in future issues.



Copyright: Colin Palmer 1975.

THE LOCAL SEA-MONSTER
An artist's impression of what the schoolgirls saw entering the water near Barmouth.



The first we heard of this story was when trusty readers sent us clippings - it seems to have by-passed the national dailies completely. We wrote to a few of the papers that serve the region and were very disappointed by the local coverage, compared to the Liverpool press-reports from much further away. The Merioneth Express told us: "The story lacked authenticity so we only gave it the briefest mention." ((Splutter.')) That shocks us more than stories of monsters on quiet Welsh beaches. The Western Mail, 4 March, (Cr: FW Holiday) trotted out an expert from the University Marine Science Laboratories at Menai Bridge who tried to make out that it was a trick of the light and distance between the girls and an otter, seal or perhaps even an escaped sea-lion. "No known sea creature that could be washed up from tropical waters would fit the girl's description." I think he's trying to tell us it doesn't, or can't exist, bless him.

The North Wales Weekly News, 6 March (Cr: R Mowday) mentioned sightings of a sea-going creature during the previous three weeks on the northern coast of Anglesey. Several people saw it showing only a foot or so of its body, and a "square-cut tail" (similar to the Barmouth sketch) as it moved fast up the main channel of Red Wharf Bay. The NWWN fishing columnist, Tom Evans, mentions three groups of witnesses, including some sea-anglers. The Western Mail, 8 March (Cr: FW Holiday) quoted Philip Wendel, a barman at the Minydon Hotel at the water's edge: "It was too weird and rather frightening to be a basking shark, a dolphin, or even a minature submarine. Five of us saw it going up the channel only 30yds away and two women employed at the hotel also saw it from another viewpoint a few minutes later and they were mystified." He described it as about 12 ft long with a blackish, symmetrical form and a prominent tail. "It resembled a flying-bomb from its tail, and we saw it before hearing about this Barmouth monster," he added.

Tom Evans's fishing column also related that about two years ago a party of anglers from Liverpool fishing off the Black Wall, opposite Ynys y Gorad Goch, were on their way back along the shore in the fading light, when suddenly a large, 10 ft long creature slithered its way across the mud and kelp towards the water. They saw that it had feet, webbed and shaped like saucers with long protruding nails. The Cambrian News, 7 March, mentions a photo owned by Mr Gordon Walters of Tynycoed -- Colin Palmer's postcard, which has a brief history of the Barmouth monster, says that this photo, taken 2 years ago of a "strange water creature" in the Barmouth Estuary, is on display in a shop in Tynycoed. He also says that in 1937, Robert Jones of Harlech, encountered a "weird crocodile-like creature walking along a riverbank near Harlech."

The latest developments increase the mystery. Colin Palmer enclosed an item from the Liverpool Daily Post, 6 May (via Margie Ledger) to the effect that two women staying at a caravan at Talybont found "six young monsters" dead on the beach. They took photos and made a sketch of what they had seen. We will try to obtain copies of these and other evidences. In his letter, Colin says that Granada TV covered the item on one of their news programmes, but mentioned the opinion of a "Marine Biologist" that they were probably badly mutilated Skates. The ladies describe their findings as having longish necks with small heads and two legs at the rear. We await further developments on this item. And yet more sightings are mentioned in this cutting. "A local woman" claimed to have seen four large footprints "as big as elephant's" in the wet sand on an island off Barmouth. And a father and son, "not given to exaggeration" saw turbulence in a calm sea and reached for binoculars and telescope. "They saw a large animal with a head similar to a seal, but with a long neck, playing in the sea between Dyffryn Ardudwy and Llanbedr," said Edmonds Evans, a local businessman who seems to be collecting stories. Some years ago, he said, a woman swimming locally, found herself almost within touching distance of what appeared to be

a monster. "She swam for the shore for dear life"

Colin's postcard brings to our attention that Robert Graves, who spent many years at a family home in Harlech, wrote a poem called 'Welsh Incident' in which a Welshman is questioned about 'things' that came out of a sea-cave at Criccieth as the Harlech Silver band played for a hospital collection. These curious things "never seen or heard or written about, very strange, un-Welsh, utterly peculiar things. Oh, solid enough they seemed to touch, had anyone dared it," came out of the sand, "not keeping time to the band." The last one, "The most odd indescribable thing of all," makes a noise before it lumbers for the sea, "A very loud, respectable noise - like groaning to oneself on Sunday morning in Chapel, close before the second psalm." Hmmm - reminds us of Fort's line: "It sang a hymn, and then departed."

SEA-SERPENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN?

Helicopters from a Russian whaling ship in the Indian Ocean reported sighting huge 'sea-serpents' basking on 2 Dec 1968. The newsreport said that experts in Moscow were sceptical, suggesting clumps of seaweed, "although the possibility of 'marine animals unknown to man' was not ruled out". It seems to us that men whose living depends on their ability to locate and identify whales etc from the air (or whatever) would know a mass of seaweed from a living animal bulk? Daily Mirror, 3 Dec 1968. (Credit: A Smith.)

A MONSTER IN THE ALPS?

This illo appeared in a general article in the Sunday Times, 4 Aug 74, entitled 'Silly season in the Alps, 1660: yeti claims another victim.' — prompted by the spate of "Yeti killed my herd " stories coming out of Katmandu at the end of July that year. But this illo is certainly of no ABSM. Cany any reader help identify the source, the creature and possibly even the story or incident that gave rise to it?

HAIL NESSIE...AND FAREWELL!

We learn that a group of Hertfordshire firemen are building a giant Loch Ness Monster in a scheme to raise money for a charity. They plan to tow it with a fire-engine from Queensway, near Hemel Hempstead to the Loch, where it will be fitted with propellers and floated in July this year. Lord knows what Nessie herself will make of this - we might be in for the hen-fight of the century. Weekly News, 12 April 75 (Cr: N Watson)

This comes at more or less the same time as news of the disbanding of the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau that has operated a continuous scientific watch on the Loch since 1962. Inflation, it seems,hits even here, and they could no longer remain a practical proposition. Directorship included Peter Scott, Lord Craigmyle, and Prof Roy P Mackal (who will be addressing the FORTFEST 75 in Chicago — see p2.), and their full-time secretary, Holly Arnold, the nearest to a Nanny that Nessie ever had, has moved to work for an Inverness lawyer. Daily Mail, 1 April 75 (Credit: Steve Moore.)

A MALAYAN UNIDENTIFIED.

The following quote is from 'Modern Wonder' Vol 5 No106, 27 May 1939, sent by Steve Moore:

"According to newspaper officials in Manila, Philippine Islands, they have seen a type of animal they are convinced cannot exist.

"The animals are the property of a roving photographer who brought the creatures from the Malayan jungles. No zoo in the world has been able to tell to which animal family these weird creatures belong.

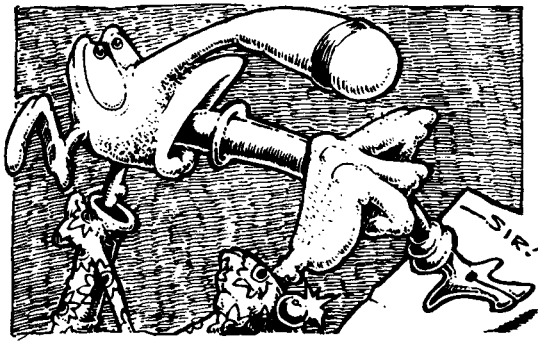
"The creatures are four-footed, with heads like racoons, some teeth like those of a cat, others like those of a human, eyes like an owl. The whole weighs about two hundred pounds and is covered with fur like a mole.

"Additionally the creatures have two tongues, eat babanas, and being able to absorb moisture through their skin, never drink."

Whaaaat! The basic situation reminds us of Heuvelmans and Sanderson's investigation of the 'Altura Iceman'. It's not said whether these weirdos were living or dead — but it seems to us like a bit of salesmanship elaborating on some muddled observations. Perhaps one of you Fortean zoologists know more about this — if so, please let us know?

ONE LAST "THING".

Philip Freeman was with his girlfriend on Sunday night, 16 Dec 1967. They stopped outside a deserted mansion in Winterfold, Surrey, and Philip got out to wipe the windscreen. Then he noticed an acrid smell. After getting back in the car he noticed soemthing looking at him from nearby. 'Thing' is the only word that can really be used here — this Thing was about 4ft 6in high with an oblong-shaped luminous head. The waves of the acrid smell seemed to come from its body. "It put an arm on the roof of the car. I said to my girlfriend, 'There's a Thing out there.' But she was too scared to look - although she remembers the smell. We drove off fast." It may be entirely unconnected to the Mystery Animal reports we find emanating from this region in substantial numbers - but we can't help noticing that in many of these too, a powerful acrid smell seems to be part of the phenomenon. This story is from Daily Mirror, 19 Dec 1967.



From: Colin Bord

The Madness of Crowds — THE NEWS 8/9.

"Men, it has been well said, think in herds; it will be seen that they go mad in herds, while they only recover their senses slowly, and one by one " - an observation worthy of the master himself, but this quote does not stem from the pen of Fort, but from Charles Mackay, who in 1852 produced his epic work EXTRAORDINARY POPULAR DELUSIONS AND THE MADNESS OF CROWDS. Here he examined some of the manias that have swept across nations, from the use of tulip bulbs (for speculation and currency) to the eternal desire to know the future (listing 52 forms of divination).

It was the request in NEWS 8/9, by our respected Editor, that prompted me to return to the works of Mackay, for therein lies a report of the mass poisonings. He says that: "The Italians of the 16th and 17th centuries poisoned their opponents with as little compunction as an English man of the present day brings an action at law against anyone who has done him an injury."

In 1659, Pope Alexander VII was told of the great number of young women who were admitting during their confession to having poisoned unwanted lovers or husbands. The poison which was administered in small doses acted progressively, was clear, odourless and tasteless. Some of the poisoners were hanged, and up to 30 at a time publicly flogged - but this seems to have been no deterrent to the rest. (One woman by the name of) Tofania had her potion bottled and sent to all parts of the country bearing the lable 'Manna of St Nicholas of Barri'.

In France the mania was in full swing during 1670 to 1680. One noted practioner amongst the nobility was a Madame de Brinvilliers, who in the space of a few weeks, poisoned her father and two brothers. She was beheaded in Paris in 1676. After this the mania took hold of the popular mind (and by) 1682 hundreds perished by the fatal dosage. Only after "upwards of a hundred individuals" had been burnt or swung in the principal cities of France did the mania finally subside.

A selection from Charles Mackay's book has been recently re-issued by George Allen & Unwin at £2.75, (1973), and makes interesting reading for such as us.

***((Apologies for condensing your letter, Colin, but I think the gist is there. Our main point of interest being, of course, that while a mania like this is in full swing, there must have been many unfortunates who 'imagined' they had been poisoned by this stuff they couldn't smell, taste or detect by colouring. Shades of our 'Phantom Smells etc'. We note the recent publication of a paperback on this subject in the Sphere 'Library of the Occult' series: THE AFFAIR OF THE POISONS by Frances Mossiker; pp320; illos; 70p. Incidentally I noted two 'coincidences' also on this theme. Firstly, never having heard of the 'Tulip Bulb Mania' of 1634-37 before, my current grimoire of Victorian oddities fell open at a review of this topic - then a few days later Colin's letter arrives. Secondly, during some research on 'Spontaneous Combustion' I found a paper by a famous German scientist of 1851, in which he compares the arguments of those who believe that humans can burst into flames with those who believed in the existance of an undetectable poison called Aqua Tofana - in the former the evidence is consumed, and in the latter it was virtually untraceable, therefore both phenomena, he reasoned (if you can call it reasoning) were clearly superstitious nonsense. - Ed))

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From: Angelo Caparella III

'Tasmanian Wolf' - THE NEWS 9/19-20.

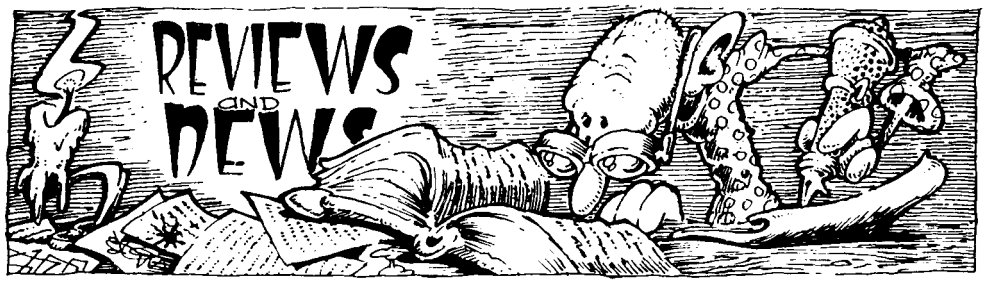
In THE NEWS (9/19-20) several exerpts from Bernard Heuvelmans's ON THE TRACK OF UNKNOWN ANIMALS are erroneously said to concern the Tasmanian Wolf (also called the Tasmanian Tiger) when in actuality they concern the Queensland marsupial Tiger. There is a great difference between these two creatures.

The Tasmanian Wolf or Tiger has been known and recognised by science since 1808 and bears the scientific name Thylacinus cyanocephalus. Though no living specimens are in captivity (the last captive Tasmanian Wolf died in the Hobart Zoo in 1934) there do exist dead specimens. Since the last Tasmanian Wolf was shot in 1930 there has been concern that the creature may be extinct, but regular sightings from Tasmania indicate some still exist though are seriously endangered.

The Queensland marsupial tiger, to which the three excerpts from Heuvelmans's refer, is not officially recognised by science — it remains an unknown animal never having been collected or examined by science. Judging from sightings, the Queensland marsupial tiger appears to be confined to mainland Australia, while the Tasmanian Wolf or tiger is, or was, since first known by the western world, confined to the island of Tasmania. To see the striking difference between the two creatures see the illustrations in ON THE TRACK.. (fig 61 of the Tasmanian Wolf, and fig 62 of the hypothetical Queensland marsupial tiger).

***((Thanks for sorting my own muddle out and straightening the record. In the UK there is a Palladin paperback edition of ON THE TRACK... but this is heavily abridged, and the relevant illos

are figs 38 and 39 respectively. For bibliophiles, Angelo also sent a copy of a monograph by Jeremy Griffith, "The Search for the Tasmanian Tiger" which brings the subject up to date and includes an extremely rare photo of the critter; from 'Natural History' Vol LXXXI No10, Dec 1972, published by the American Museum of Natural History. The subject was raised in connexion with sightings of mystery animals in the UK, some of which seem to fit the descriptions of Tasmanian wolf - and it lies there mocking us. We shall go into this sometime in the future. -- Ed.))



MYSTERIES OF TIME AND SPACE - by Brad Steiger. Prentice-Hall (USA); $7.95; 232pp; illos; and a good bibliography. Having been out of touch with Steiger's writing for some time - being decidedly unimpressed with his earlier UFO books - this 'rediscovery' has come as a delightful surprise. Steiger has made a statement about a problem that is central to so many of the areas that interest us. He has brought his not inconsiderable journalistic skills to bear on the idea that dogged pursuit of any one subject (eg UFOs) to the exclusion of developments in other researches is utterly futile unless this exclusionism can be transcended until we can see a common denominator that takes into account the varieties of human experience. He believes this common-denominator to be the way we view 'Reality'.

You cannot progress into any line of inquiry very far before encountering the problem of the ambiguity of phenomena - I mention one aspect back on p5; in Science, paradoxes abound when you reach the theoretical limits of any phenomena of matter, Time & Space - so that how you interpret phenomena becomes a matter of predisposition between your views on the Universe as being structured objectively or subjectively. This problems faces everybody from the scientists (who incline to exclude all but finite, objective events), 'nuts & bolts' UFOlogists, to the spiritualists - indeed any group that bases their inquiry on a dogmatic stance. What we know about the structure of language shows us that the very act of asking a question means that we are automatically using a conceptual framework which dictates what answer we will receive and accept. Perhaps all knowledge is ultimately so much tonnage of red-herring - but as long as we want it we must be aware of its consequences - and its ambiguous nature, the bane of all who seek strictly material or linear interpretations.

The most illumination to be shed on this stumbling-block in recent times has come from an unusual source (though historically precedented). As if in answer to unspoken need there arose the psychedelic explosion of the late 60s, which more than any other single event served to focus attention on the nature of consciousness right across the board. Today the phrase "altered states of consciousness" is to be heard everywhere and we acknowledge that our everyday-selves slip in and out of many states of mind each day. Maslow has shown how some 'high' states ('peak experienced') are central to how we build up a working model of the world, our personal 'Reality'. Koestler, expanding on Jung, has shown that the relationships between peak experiences and 'coincidences' is a function of 'meaningfulness', which can only arise from the way in which we relate events to our personal 'Realities'. And then JC Pearce came to open our eyes to the states of mind or being in which the 'Reality-shaping' process can be switched from the passive everyday adjustment to a changing world, to a dynamic force capable of being projected into that world 'outside' ourselves to restructure so-called 'objective Reality'; eg Pearce mentions firewalking, in which in the 'normal' concensus of Reality the feet should be badly damaged by the intensity of the heat - yet from the directly observable fact that this has not happened we must presume that the normal chain of cause and effect can be restructured or even by-passed.

And at the other end of the scales we can see that High Energy Physics in its pathways into the truly 'occult' states of matter, Time & Space encounters universe upon universe in which all our familiar experience is at a loss, the normal properties of matter/energy being replaced with bizarre effects that seem both magic and madness. It is no longer feasible to hold to any simplistic view of how 'Reality' works, or what it is.

This is Steiger's starting point - data that confounds doctrinal views on Time & Space. The first part of the book is given over to discoveries, often by amateurs, that are at varience with History and Archeology - eg. humanoid footprints in ancient strata (there is a photo that purports to show a trilobite crushed beneath a soled foot in rock 500 million years old), an object like a spark-plug in a rock with fossil-

shells ½million years old, the massive sunken ruins of Bimini; the nails, wires etc in layers of the earth that antedate history as we know it. After reviewing the idea that there may have been civilisations that bloomed and faded before the seeding of modern man, Steiger settles down to his main theme - that the mind by its own power can restructure time and space and matter as an act of will - though it has to be acknowledged that this is largely brought about by accident or conditions as yet beyond our conscious control.

In the middle portion of the work, we move on to evidence from other sources of this amazing mental ability - the image of a hand on a switched-off TV, the film of a man at the Niagara Falls years before he first went there in the flesh, falls of materials from the sky, and apports of things at seances, the 'phantom marksman' that has plagued both UK and USA, etc. Despite the fact that most of these cases appear here for the first time (in a book, that is - some taken from mags such as INFO Journal, PURSUIT, FATE, etc) there seemed to be less consistency in the line of argument here - perhaps too much data to treat it all fairly.

The last section mainly concerns 'entities' and the way they seem to be inextricably twined around the breakaway experiences of a 'different' Reality - Steiger deals at some length with the Men In Black phenomena here. This spills over into consideration of these 'other Realities' and whether people have ever made the transition (voluntary or otherwise) and whether it is possible to learn techniques for manipulating 'Reality'. Several very interesting cases are mentioned, like the man in traction for both broken legs who vanished from his hospital bed leaving behind the traction-pins, an hour later he and the pins were back in place; and the woman walking down a street who found herself suddenly facing a thatched cottage, a dog barking at her, and a couple in old-fashioned clothes who could not see her, and this melting away to leave her back in the street once more. (Would teleportation work like this - or was it clairvoyance? Then why was the dog barking <u>at</u> her? Fascinating - but this and several other items seem poorly referenced.)

The central concept of a plastic reality is envisaged by Steiger to be like a game, and all of us engaged in its play, willing or not. One of the minor threads through the book is that entities from other dimensions, who, unlike us, know the rules of the game, are deliberately out-classing us, pushing us into situations, like the Gods of old, where we adapt or suffer the consequences. Whilst the concept of a 'Reality Game' is fairly useful, I do think it simplifies somewhat - like Hamlet, after acknowledging that "There is nothing either good or bad, <u>but thinking makes it so</u>," I sense something else that is above and beyond: "I could be bounded in a nutshell and count myself a king of infinite space, were it not that I have bad dreams." There are a good many parts of the jigsaw to come yet - if Steiger has concentrated on a slightly mechanistic reasoning (complete with Deus Ex Machina Men in Black), this is nonetheless a valid approach, and certainly poses many interesting challenges. Though I feel I cannot go along with some of Steiger's conclusions, I have no hesitation in recommending the book for its clear exposition of a very complex idea. This is an important step in the Great Synthesis, extrapolating the work of Pearce, Koestler, Fodor, Max Freedom Long and many others into the realm of Fortean data. The exploration of the actual nature and role of human subjectivity (just one of the 'bad dream' areas yet to be tackled) can wait. If we can reach that through Steiger's work, the future will be exciting indeed. ((Note for UK readers - this book may not be generally available, but most bookshops will order from the States for you. Alternatively you could do it yourself from Other Dimensions Inc, Box 140, 104 Washington St, Decorah, Iowa 52101, USA, payment with order, postage extra. It's bound to be much quicker.))

THE FLYING COW by Guy Lyon Playfair. Souvenir Press; £3.50; 320pp; illustd; bibliography.

The range and wealth of material in this book on psychic phenomena in Brazil is astonishing, not simply because this is one of so few literary explorations of 'psychic Brazil' but because so much seems to happen, or be happening quite openly there, the Spiritist movements being massively supported. The first part of the book deals with four of the most famous mediums. (One has trance-written more than 125 books. Another specialises in materialisations; another healing, etc.) One curious observation is about the strange 'devices' the 'spirit-doctors' bring to healing sessions - eg one "looked like a deep dish of gelatinous substance...pale green in colour and transparent. When placed on the patient's body it proved to be a kind of portable X-ray machine for all present could clearly see through it into the inside of the lady's body."

The second part deals extensively with psychic surgery - with some horrific photos of penknives jabbing into eyes; and shots of fingers probing, thrusting into body cavities, which if they were in a Kung-fu movie would have been removed by a different kind of surgery.

The last section concerns general phenomena from poltergeistery (both disturbances and fires) to reincarnation; and also the work of various individual reaearchers and organisations. Playfair mentions some experimental work on photographing spirits, alluding to a "pre-1945" case of a generating dynamo in a darkened room, over which "a luminous sphere formed itself, in the centre of which there appeared a feminine hand, very delicate and sharply focussed." In fact Steiger mentions a similar incident related by Fay Clark who worked at a power company in Wisconsin in 1931. In this case the image in the cloud over a turbine was of a woman reclining on a couch. Odd.

Many of the photos in FLYING COW are open to criticism: a man levitating (he could have jumped); items burnt by poltergeists (all they show is a scorched area); a landrover against a fence, shoes high on a roof-beam, a chest of drawers at

the foot of stairs, all alledgedly thrown or moved by pesky polts. But to judge from the huge amount of data, Playfair's honest approach and intelligence, I'm quite prepared to accept that these photos are what he says they are.

THERE ARE GIANTS IN THE EARTH by Michael Grumley. Sidgewick & Jackson; £3.50; 154pp; illustd; bibliography. Near the publication date of this book a small note appeared in the Daily Mirror, 26 May 75, announcing that Grumley and Robert Ferro (with whom he wrote ATLANTIS: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A SEARCH) were in London en route for Loch Ness whose occupant is the subject of their next book. GIANTS mainly concerns the existence or not of giant anthropoids: the Yetis, Momos, Sasquatch, Bigfoot, Mono Grande, ABSMs or whatever name you prefer. Grumley bases himself on the argument that if animals are long thought extinct, then remote, inhospitable regions of this earth, useless to consumer man, may well harbour living remnants from the ancient past. From archeological evidence we know of cases where the "species father outlasted the species son" - and so it's a sobering thought to realise that if these hairy giants have lasted this long, they could well still be here after we're gone - providing of course we don't wipe them out before we go.

Grumley writes very well, if a trifle self-consciously at times - his wry observations having a distinctive style. If like me you know very little about the 'Manimal' scene, this would seem to be a good place to jump in - not too deep and not too shallow. Apart from John Napier's BIGFOOT there aren't any competitors with GIANTS in the UK, and US imports are few and far between - so Grumley has a fairly clear field here.

MYSTERIES OF THE EARTH by Jacques Bergier. 207pp. OUR HAUNTED PLANET by John Keel. 191pp. Both from Futura (paperbacks); 60p; in their 'Mysteries of Time & Space' series. MOTE (published in USA as EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL VISITATIONS FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES TO THE PRESENT) is Bergier's main exposition on his theories of ET visitation — more so that the recent, unfortunately titled EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL INTERVENTION: THE EVIDENCE (see Reviews, NEWS 8) which in fact contained very little on the subject. MOTE, basicly, is ten general essays on the standard subjects: the lines at Nasca, the maps of the sea-kings, the Tunguska event, the Baalbek terrace, Kaspar Hauser, etc. I enjoy Bergier best on the less well known themes — 'Dr Gurlt's Cube' discusses artifacts found in ancient strata (the cube referred to being found in coal in the 19th C, and which later disappeared from the museum in which it was said to be housed.); the mysterious and prodigious geniuses of the Middle Ages (Cardan, Bacon, et al), and their recent counterparts like Sir Henry Cavendish, Boscovitch, Franklin et al, who Bergier maintains, were members of, or received instruction from an 'Invisible College'; and on 'green children' and other visitors from 'elsewhere'. (Curiously, Bergier does not mention the obvious classic of the 'Green Children of Woolpit (Norfolk, 12th C.) though he does give a Spanish case of 1887 that parallels most of the details.)

Unfortunately my review copy has pages 81-100 missing — so make sure your copy is complete before you buy yours.

OUR HAUNTED PLANET has of course been around in the USA since 1971, and may be known to some of you already. If not, then this is one of those general rambles that take in the whole gamut of the curious, and rather better than most. Keel says: "Wonder and curiosity have always been an integral part of my life. I am only trying to share that wonder with the reader...I do not pretend to know any answers. After a lifetime of study and travel I am still learning the questions." With a guide like Keel you can be garuanteed a good ride, pertinent observations and a few sensible laughs.

A HISTORY OF MAGIC, WITCHCRAFT & OCCULTISM by WB Crow. Abacus (paperback); 60p; 320pp.

Not strictly a new publication, but worth knowing about - an economic paper edition with a new index - and structured usefully, more like an encyclopedia.

It recently came to our attention that there is an error in the biographical note. It says the author is a Dip Sc. of London University, whoever wrote it being under the mistaken impression that D.Sc. means this diploma. Dr Crow is not only a PhD. as stated but also holds the higher degree of DSc. which means Doctor of Science. It would be a courtesy if you could correct your copies accordingly. Ta!

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LANTERN published by the Borderline Science Investigation Group, doing sterling work in East Anglia. The Spring 1975 issue contains: Ghosts of the Air; an article on some extraordinary psychic photography produced at a local seance by BSIG's Psychic Research Section; legends of the Ferry Inn, Horning; Suffolk Landscape Geometry by Nigel Pennick; and a round-up of local news & curiosities. A quarterly at 70p/year (payable to BSIG). Inquiries to: IAW Bunn, 3 Dunwich Way, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4RZ.

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